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From: Gray, David
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Subject: ACTION: FINAL Draft Release for Approval

EPA Data Shows Water Quality in San Juan River in the Navajo Nation Back to Pre-Event Levels

DURANGO, CO – Based on U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) surface water data collected following the August 5, 2015 Gold King Mine release, San Juan River water quality in Navajo Nation has returned to pre-release conditions. This determination is based on a review of water quality data collected from August 7-15, 2015 at EPA's sampling point near Hogback, N.M.

While concentrations of iron and other metals spiked on August 11, concentrations measured now reflect conditions before water and minerals from the Gold King Mine release entered the Navajo Nation.

Given that river water has returned to pre-release conditions, Friday August 21, will be the last day for water deliveries for agricultural use on the Navajo Nation.

EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy and Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye had a productive phone conversation on August 19 to review water quality data. EPA will work closely with the Navajo Nation in the coming weeks to ensure that a long-term monitoring plan for the San Juan River is implemented.

Water and sediments from the mine were last observed at Nenahnezad, N.M., east of Hogback, N.M., on August 8, 2015.

For more information on EPA's response to the Gold King Mine release, please visit: www.epa.gov/goldkingmine

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